



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 2
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH,
SAFETY AND WELFARE
TELEPHONE: (808) 547-7002
FAX: (808) 527-5737
EMAIL: dmdelacruz@honolulu.gov

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Contact: Councilmember Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Phone: 527-5711

Dela Cruz Seeks Help for Kahuku Hospital

Community action building with regard to Kahuku Hospital's future

Honolulu: City Councilmember Donovan M. Dela Cruz will ask the council to approve a resolution urging state and federal leaders to consider more funding for Kahuku Hospital. The State has appropriated emergency funds to keep the hospital open through February 2007, and legislators are expected to address the issue during the 2007 legislative session.

Dela Cruz, whose district encompasses Kahuku Hospital, introduced Resolution 06-374 (being heard today at 2:30 p.m.) in an effort to call further attention to the critical need for a localized emergency medical facility for this particular area.

"Our community depends on this local hospital for all kinds of emergency help. It offers some peace of mind to the community having the hospital in such close proximity," says Dela Cruz.

Dela Cruz hopes that the resolution will help state leaders, as well as Hawaii's congressional team, focus on how critical this health center is. He also sees the resolution as a way to call attention to the challenges that rural, and more isolated, communities face with regard to health care.

"In an emergency, time counts. A longer drive to Castle Medical or Wahiawa can mean the difference between life and death. I hope the state and Congress recognize how important this hospital really is to windward and north shore residents," remarked Dela Cruz.

The community will also have an opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the hospital's closure tonight at 7 p.m., Kahuku High School cafeteria (<http://www.kadvocates.org>).

Kahuku Hospital was opened in 1929 and has a service area of over 20,000 people. The hospital provides emergency care, acute care, skilled nursing, and health education programs.

For more information please contact: 527-5711